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STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DAVID DREIER
RULES COMMITTEE BUDGET REQUEST
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2001

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your consideration of the Rules Committee's bipartisan budget request, which was developed in close consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, Mr. Moakley, and adopted by the Committee by voice vote on February 13.

The Rules Committee intends to continue with our longstanding arrangement of dedicating one-third of the Committee's personnel budget to the minority, while granting all other requests in a timely manner, subject to the availability of funds allocated to the Committee. In my two years as Chairman, the minority has been granted every request they have made, whether it be equipment, subscriptions or supplies. I expect the 107th Congress to be no different. We will also continue to operate within the constraints of our existing staff ceiling of 36, with 24 allocated to the majority, 11 allocated to the minority, and one shared administrative employee who is paid out of the majority's allocation.

The Rules Committee is asking for modest increases of 2.5 % and 3.1 % for 2001 and 2002 respectively. These increases will be incurred in personnel

compensation and are necessary to keep experienced staff from leaving for jobs in the private sector or in the new Administration. It is also necessary to ensure that the minority has sufficient funds within their one-third allocation to provide modest cost-of-living increases over the next two years. Mr. Moakley has extremely loyal, dedicated and experienced staff, and we want to make sure they can be compensated accordingly.

Thanks to the support of the House Administration Committee for our previous funding request, the Rules Committee has done well in upgrading its office equipment, and we will continue to do so in this Congress. Our biggest priorities include: (1) the purchase of a high speed, high capacity photocopier so that, when we are presented with several hundred page bills and conference reports late in the evening, we have the ability to provide this material to our Members prior to our meeting; and (2) modernizing the equipment in our subcommittee office, which currently has antiquated equipment dating back to the early-1990s.

With the respect to the distribution of our budget request, I cannot guarantee that the minority will be provided exactly 33 percent of the funds allocated to us. But I would point out that during the 106th Congress, the minority was accountable for 33 percent of the money allocated to the Rules Committee and 34 percent of the money actually spent by the Committee.

I believe this is a fair and responsible budget request, which continues to provide one-third of the resources to the Minority. I want to thank Mr. Moakley for working closely with me to develop a budget that we can both vigorously support.